

Behavior tip of the month

Expectation Stations

Imagine you have been invited to dine at the White House. Chances are you have had experience eating out with friends in public but would feel a little apprehensive about sitting down at a banquet with the President and his staff. What are the rules? What is proper the etiquette? How you act during the meal would depend on what you have been taught and who teaches it to you.

Sometimes it is assumed that all students know how to act in all areas of the school. A student's background and family environments have a great influence on student behavior. If you have a student that is bullied by older siblings at home, your student is learning that bullying others is a good way to get what you want. If your student is in a home environment where it is ok to shout to get someone's attention, the same attention getting method may seem ok for them to use in your classroom. So what do you do to let students know what is expectable behavior at school? Expectation Stations are a great way to teach all students what behaviors are acceptable in the school environment.

1. Take students to each area of the school and teach the desired behaviors for that area.
2. Select students (some who have shown good behavior and some who have not) to model the expected behaviors.
3. Post the expected behaviors in each of these areas. Keep the expectations short and focused on what you want the students to be doing, not what you want them not to do.
4. Reward the students when you see them demonstrating the desired behaviors.
****Rewards do not need to be tangible! Use specific verbal praise.
"Jennifer, I saw you taking turns with others on the swings. Taking turns is one of the expected behaviors for the playground. That is great! Thank you for being a good friend!"
5. Re-teach the behaviors:
 - a. At the beginning of each year.
 - b. If you are seeing an issue that is beginning to reoccur in a certain area, re-teach the expected behaviors before it becomes a bigger issue.
 - c. After long breaks.
 - d. When new students come into your school

Some suggested areas to teach behaviors: hallway, assemblies, playground, bus, cafeteria, bathrooms, and classrooms.